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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/689,442	10/20/2003	Robert P. Serina	SERINA-01	3381

7590

06/04/2004

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EXAMINER
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BAXTER, GWENDOLYN WRENN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3632

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/689,442

Applicant(s)

SERINA, ROBERT P.

Examiner

Gwendolyn Baxter

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

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This is the first office action for application serial number 10/689,442, Combined Curtain Rod and Shade Assembly, filed October 20, 2003.

### *Drawings*

The drawings are objected to because the lead lines of reference numeral 4 are drawn to structure other than aperture in the rod. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: 24. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Specification*

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

**The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words.** It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The wording of the abstract must be reduced.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the frame" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nahas, U.S. Patent No. 1,299,993 in view of Summerville, U.S. Patent No. 3,595,511. The present invention reads on Nahas as follows: Nahas teaches a combination of a curtain rod and shade assembly for a windowed device. The device comprises a pair of conforming and opposing virtually 90 degree angled member portions (1, 2) for meeting the corner between the window and the frame (9, 10). The device has a rear portion on the side of each, is presented a coupling device (11, 14) for acceptance of a rod for a shade assembly. On the 90 degree recess a coupling device (24') for enable at least one curtain rod assembly for hookable assemblage such that the distance traversed between the two member portions is effectively the

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width of the window. However, Nahas fails to teach an adhesive material on the rear portion of each of the angled member portions.

Summerville teaches a mounting bracket for a shade assembly, wherein this assembly includes an pressure adhesive material (25) on the rear portion of the mounting bracket. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the rear surface of the angled members as taught by Nahas to have incorporated the adhesive material as taught by Summerville for the purpose of further adhering the mounting bracket to its supporting surface or window frame.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nahas in view of Summerville, as applied to claim 1, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,655,336 to McGowan. Nahas in view of Summerville teaches the limitations of the base claim, excluding a multiplicity of screw holes and screws. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the means for mounting the angled members as taught by Nahas in view of Summerville to have incorporated the screw holes and screw as taught by McGowan for the purpose of providing an alternate means for mounting the angled members. further adhering the mounting bracket to its supporting surface or window frame. Additionally, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to make the screw length sufficient to enable passage through sheet rock and into a stud, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size or length of the screw or component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

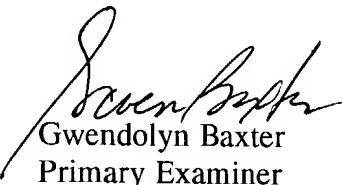
*Conclusion*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Turner 819,957; Morgan 1,596,506; Mentz 2,474,434; and Belli 3,907,240 teach a pair of angled member brackets having means for securing a shade roller and/or curtain rod.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gwendolyn Baxter whose telephone number is 703-308-0702. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday, 8:00am -5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie A Braun can be reached on 703-308-2156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Gwendolyn Baxter  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3632

June 1, 2004